



**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY WHIP
THE HONORABLE JAMES E. CLYBURN (SC-06)**

THE WHIP PACK

WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2008

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Bill Text and Background for the Week of March 3, 2008

- H.R. 1424 – Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007
- H.R. 2857 – Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act
- Possible consideration of Legislation Regarding the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

HR 1424 – PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007
(Rep. Kennedy – Energy and Commerce/Education and Labor/Ways and Means) (Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in H-313, the Capitol

Committee: [Committee on Energy and Commerce](#), [Committee on Education and Labor](#), [Committee on Ways and Means](#),

Committee Staff Contact: Energy and Commerce: 5-2927, Education and Labor: 5-3725, Ways and Means: 5-3625

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

This bill permanently reauthorizes and expands the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 to provide for equity in the coverage of mental health and substance-related disorders compared to medical and surgical disorders. The legislation ensures that group health plans do not charge higher co-payments, coinsurance, deductibles, and impose maximum out-of-pocket limits and lower day and visit limits on mental health and addiction care than for medical and surgical benefits. The Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the Internal Revenue Service may penalize health plans for discriminatory practices under the bill and individuals may bring a private right of action to receive covered benefits.

Parity Requirements

The bill does not mandate group health plans provide any mental health coverage. However, if a plan does offer mental health coverage, then:

- Equity in financial requirements. The plan or coverage must ensure that any financial requirements applied to mental health and substance-related disorders are no more restrictive or costly than the financial requirements applied to the predominant requirement on comparable medical and surgical benefits that the plan covers. Financial requirements include deductibles, co-payments, coinsurance, and out-of-pocket expenses.
- Equity in treatment limits. The plan or coverage must also ensure that any treatment limitations applied to mental health and substance-related disorders are no more restrictive than the treatment limitations applied to the predominant limitation on comparable medical and surgical benefits that the plan covers. Treatment limitations include caps on the frequency or number of visits, limits on days of coverage, or other similar limits on the scope and duration of treatment.
- Prohibits discrimination by diagnosis. The plan or coverage must cover the mental illnesses and substance-related disorders included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) – the mental health practitioner's guide to mental illnesses. This is the same coverage that Members of Congress have.
- Equality in out-of-network coverage. If the plan or coverage offers out-of network benefits for medical and surgical benefits under the plan, then it must also offer out-of-network coverage for mental health and substance-related disorders.

Scope of Coverage

- The mental health parity requirements apply to group health plans with 51 or more employees, but does not apply to health coverage in the individual insurance market.

Cost Exemption

- If the requirements in this bill result in increased actual total costs of coverage that exceed 2% during the first plan year or 1% in subsequent years, the plan may choose to be exempt from the equity requirements for the following plan year.

Effect on State Mental Health Parity Laws

- The bill would establish a federal floor but permits states to go further to protect their citizens. This bill would not supersede any state law that provides consumer protections, benefits, rights, or remedies stronger than those in this bill.

Transparency in Medical Management

- Plans will be required to make information about criteria used for medical necessity determinations and reasons for denials relating to mental health and addiction treatment available. The bill expressly clarifies that nothing in the Act prevents the use of medical management tools that are based on valid medical evidence and are relevant to the patient whose medical treatment is under review.

Enforcement

- The Internal Revenue Service may impose a tax of \$100 per day per beneficiary on employers or insurers who do not comply with the equity requirements of this bill. The Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Labor can also enforce the provisions of this bill. Aggrieved individuals may bring a civil action to obtain covered benefits.

Government Accountability Office Reports

The bill requires GAO to produce three reports:

- A study of the bill's impact on health care costs, access to coverage, quality of care, government spending on mental health and addiction treatment and other public services, and use of medical management by plans.
- A biannual assessment of obstacles beneficiaries face in obtaining appropriate care under their health plans.
- A study of the availability and use of uniform patient placement criteria that can help guide health plans' determinations of medical necessity.

Effective Date

- The bill is effective in the first health plan year that begins on or after January 1, 2009.

House Report 110-374:

Part I: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Part II: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee on Energy and Commerce Mark-up:

Committee on Energy and Commerce markup of: H.R. 1424, the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007", amended, October 16, 2007
National Journal Report

Opening Statement: Chairman Dingell

Summary of Committee Votes:

- Rep. H. Wilson, R-N.M. Senate Bill Language Amendment — Would have struck section 3 of the bill and replace it with language from the Senate-passed bill (S 558). In so doing it would have: Struck language in the bill that would require mental health or substance-related disorder benefits to be dictated by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV and instead define mental health benefits by the terms of the health plan or, when applicable, by state law; Eliminated provisions in the bill that would require plans to provide out-of-network mental health benefits if they also provide out-of-network medical and surgical benefits. **Rejected 20-33: R 20-3; D 0-30; I 0-0.**
- Rep. Deal, R-Ga. FEHB Compliance Replacement Amendment — Would have allowed insurance plans to be in compliance with the bill if they comply with applicable requirements of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) with respect to parity in mental health benefits. **Rejected 14-26: R 14-2; D 0-24; I 0-0.**
- Rep. Stearns, R-Fla. DSM As Criminal Defense Amendment — Would have added language to state that nothing in the bill should be construed to establish a legal defense for people accused of crimes, including sexual abuse of children, because they suffer from a disorder included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- Rep. Deal, R-Ga. Permanent Exemption Amendment — Would have allowed health insurance plans to apply for permanent exemption from the parity requirements if they can prove that the requirements drive up coverage costs more than 2 percent in the year after they take effect or more than 1 percent in subsequent years. As introduced, the bill would allow for only one-year exemptions, rather than permanent, and require insurance plans to reapply for a continued exemption. **Rejected 14-29: R 14-2; D 0-27; I 0-0.**
- Rep. Mike Rogers Child Abuser Exception R-Mich. Amendment — Would have provided an exception for mental health coverage for any individual who has been convicted of child abuse or criminal activity if the abuse or activity is the basis for a claim of coverage. **Rejected 16-23: R 16-0; D 0-23; I 0-0.**
- Rep. Burgess, R-Texas Strike "Condition," Add "Disorder" Amendment — Would have struck the word "condition" and add the word "disorder" in the bill. It also would have removed a roughly 10-page section of the 4th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders book that is used in the measure as the basis for deciding the minimum scope of coverage and equity in out-of-network benefits for a mental health condition. **Rejected 18-28: R 18-0; D 0-28; I 0-0.**
- Rep. Burgess, R-Texas No Impact on ADA Amendment — Would have added language to clarify that nothing in the bill should be construed to mean that if a condition is included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders it is also classified as a disability under federal or state law, including the Americans with

Disabilities Act. It would also have clarified that nothing in the bill should restrict any company's employee substance abuse policy. **Withdrawn.**

- [Rep. Deal, R-Ga. DSM Review by Secretary Amendment](#) — Would have required the secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the process by which conditions are selected for inclusion in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders to determine if the selections were made by the American Psychiatric Association in a manner that is "scientifically objective and unbiased, based on valid medical evidence, and does not pose a significant conflict of interest." As introduced the bill would apply only to conditions that are found by the secretary to meet such conditions. **Rejected 16-31: R 16-2; D 0-29; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. Burgess, R-Texas Health Care Liability Offset Amendment](#) — Would have added a second title on health care liability reform. If a person is injured or dies as the result of health care, the amendment would have capped non-economic damages charged to health care practitioners at \$250,000 and capped non-economic damages charged to health care institutions at \$500,000. In a wrongful death suit, it would also have capped at \$1.4 million the total damages charged to a single health care practitioner. It would also provide other conditions for civil action. It would have provided an offset to the costs resulting from the underlying bill. **Withdrawn.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a **Recorded Vote of 32-13: R 5-13; D 27-0; I 0-0.**

Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Mark-up:

[Subcommittee on Health markup of H.R. 1424, the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007"](#), October 10, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Dingell](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Rep. H. Wilson, R-N.M. Substitute Amendment to the Manager's Amendment](#) — Would have struck the text of the amendment and replace with the language of the Senate-passed bill (S 558). In so doing it would have: Stuck language in the bill that would require mental health or substance-related disorder benefits to be dictated by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV and instead define mental health benefits by the terms of the health plan or, when applicable, by state law; Eliminated provisions in the bill that would require plans to provide out-of-network mental health benefits if they also provide out-of-network medical and surgical benefits. **Rejected 9-19: R 9-2; D 0-17; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. Deal, R-Ga. Permanent Exemption Amendment to the Manager's Amendment](#) — Would have allowed health insurance plans to apply for permanent exemption from the parity requirements if they can prove that the requirements drive up coverage costs more than 2 percent in the year after they take effect or more than 1 percent in subsequent years. The Pallone amendment would have allowed for only one-year exemptions, rather than permanent, and require insurance plans to reapply for a continued exemption. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Deal, R-Ga. Plan Without Parity Option Amendment to the Manager's Amendment](#) — Would have allowed health insurance companies and employers to offer employees benefit plans that do not meet the mental health parity requirements, as long as they also offer plans that do meet the requirements, and allow employees to choose which plan they want. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**

- [Rep. Pallone, D-N.J. Manager's Amendment](#) — Made technical changes and corrections as well as several substantive changes to the bill. The Amendment: Added emergency care to the treatment parity requirement. Define mental health by the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), rather than based on the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (which itself is based on the DSM), as in the underlying bill; Exempted collectively bargained plans from the parity requirement until they expire or Jan. 1, 2010; Clarified that health insurance issuers would be allowed to use medical management tools (determining appropriate treatment) as long as they are based on "valid medical evidence."
Adopted by Voice Vote.
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full Committee, as Amended, by **Voice Vote.**

Full Committee on Ways and Means Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup of H.R. 1424, the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007"](#), September 26, 2007
[Report from the Subcommittee on Health to H.R. 1424](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Rep. S. Johnson, R-Texas Effective Date Amendment](#) — Would have changed the Jan. 1, 2008, effective date of the legislation to on or after Jan. 1 of the calendar year that begins more than one year after the date of enactment. **Withdrawn.**
- [Rep. Weller, R-Ill. Add Jim Ramstad to the Title Amendment](#) — Would have added the name of Minnesota GOP Rep. Jim Ramstad to the title of the bill, following that of Paul Wellstone. **Withdrawn.**
- [Rep. Hulshof, R-Mo. Strike DSM Requirement Amendment](#) — Would have struck language in the bill that would require mental health or substance-related disorder benefits to be dictated by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV. **Rejected 13-26: R 13-3; D 0-23; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. D. Camp, R-Mich. Strike Out-of-Network Requirement Amendment](#) — Would have eliminated language in the bill that requires plans to provide out-of-network mental health benefits if they also provide out-of-network medical and surgical benefits. **Rejected 15-25: R 15-1; D 0-24; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. Hulshof, R-Mo. Medical Management Amendment](#) — Would have allowed group health plans to negotiate separate reimbursement or provider payment rates and service delivery systems for different benefits and allow plans to manage the provisions of mental health benefits. **Rejected 15-25: R 15-1; D 0-24; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. R. Lewis, R-Ky. Out-of-Pocket Cost Increase Amendment](#) — Would have eliminated parity requirements from a plan if the aggregate out-of-pocket costs, including premiums, copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, for both medical benefits and mental health benefits, of enrollees increase by a certain amount. **Rejected 15-25: R 15-1; D 0-24; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. D. Camp, R-Mich. Senate Bill Language Amendment](#) — Would have replaced section IV of the bill, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, with the corresponding section in the Senate-passed version (S 558). In so doing it would have: Struck language in the bill that would require mental health or substance-related disorder benefits to be dictated by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental

Disorders IV; Eliminated provisions in the bill that would require plans to provide out-of-network mental health benefits if they also provide out-of-network medical and surgical benefits; Specified that plans would be allowed to manage the provisions of mental health benefits. **Rejected 13-26: R 13-3; D 0-23; I 0-0.**

- [Chairman Rangel, D-N.Y. Mental Health Definition Substitute Amendment](#) — Makes a minor change to define mental health by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) directly, rather than based on the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (which itself is based on the DSM), as in the underlying bill. [JCT Description of Chairman's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1424](#), [Ways and Means Description of changes of Chairman's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 1424](#), [JCT Estimated Revenue Effects of Chairman's Amendment to H.R. 1424](#). **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a **Recorded Vote of 27-13: R 3-13; D 24-0; I 0-0.**

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health Mark-up:

[Subcommittee on Health Markup of H.R. 1424, the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007"](#), September 19, 2007
[National Journal Report](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Rep. P. Stark, D-Calif. Substitute Amendment](#) — Adds language clarifying that the bill would not prohibit group health plans that provide both medical and surgical benefits and mental health or substance-related disorder benefits from waiving the application of any deductible for mental health benefits or substance-related disorder benefits. The amendment defines "mental health benefits" and "substance-related disorder benefits" and adds a collective bargaining provision to the bill. [JCT Description of Chairman's Amendment](#), [JCT Estimated Revenue Effects of Chairman's Amendment](#). **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. D. Camp, R-Mich. Out-of-Network Coverage Amendment](#) — Would have struck language in the bill that would require plans to provide out-of-network mental health benefits if they also provide out-of-network medical and surgical benefits. **Rejected 4-7: R 4-1; D 0-6; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. S. Johnson, R-Texas Extend Effective Date Amendment](#) — Would have changed the Jan. 1, 2008, effective date of the legislation to on or after Jan. 1 of the calendar year that begins no more than one year after the date of enactment. **Rejected 3-8: R 3-2; D 0-6; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. Hulshof, R-Mo. Strike DSM-IV Mandate Amendment](#) — Would have struck language in the bill that would require mental health or substance-related disorder benefits to be dictated by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV. **Rejected 3-9: R 3-2; D 0-7; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. Hulshof, R-Mo. Medical Management Amendment](#) — Would have allowed group health plans to negotiate separate reimbursement or provider payment rates and service delivery systems for different benefits and allow plans to manage the provisions of mental health benefits. **Rejected 4-9: R 4-1; D 0-8; I 0-0.**

- [Rep. D. Camp, R-Mich. Senate Language Amendment](#) — Would have replaced a section of the bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with the corresponding section in the Senate-passed version (S 558). **Rejected 3-9: R 3-2; D 0-7; I 0-0.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full Committee, as Amended, by a **Recorded Vote of 10-3: R 2-3; D 8-0; I 0-0.**

Full Committee on Education and Labor Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup: H.R. 1424 "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007"](#), July 18, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Miller](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Rep. J. Kline, R-Minn. GOP Substitute Amendment to the Miller Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have pre-empted state mental health parity standards regarding financial requirements and treatment limitation. The Amendment also would have: Defined mental health benefits as those relating to mental health services, including substance-abuse treatment, as they are defined under the terms of the health plan and, when applicable, as defined under state law; Allowed plans to limit coverage of mental health and addiction treatment services to services performed by providers within their networks. The text of the amendment is identical to that of S 558, the Senate bill on mental health parity. **Rejected 16-27: R 16-2; D 0-25; I 0-0.**
- [Chairman George Miller, D-Calif. Substitute Amendment](#) — Specifies that group health care plans could use medical management plans, including: the application of utilization review, the application of authorization and management practices, the application of medical necessity and appropriateness criteria, and other processes "intended to ensure that beneficiaries receive appropriate care and medically necessary services for covered benefits." The Amendment added emergency care to the treatment parity requirement and requires random audits of coverage plans to verify compliance. The amendment also clarifies that collectively bargained plans become subject to the law after the expiration of the collectively bargained plan. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a **Recorded Vote of 33-9: R 8-9; D 25-0; I 0-0** ([Roll Call](#)).

CRS Reports:

[RL33820](#): The Mental Health Parity Act: A Legislative History

[RL31657](#): Mental Health Parity: Federal and State Action and Economic Impact

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on October 16, 2007

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the by the House Committee on Ways and Means on September 26, 2007

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Education and Labor on July 18, 2007

Committee Hearings:

[H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007>>](#)

June 15, 2007 Hearing — Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

[Hearing on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity>>](#)

March 27, 2007 Hearing — Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health
[Hearing Transcript](#)

["The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007 \(H.R. 1424\)">>](#)

July 10, 2007 Hearing — Committee on Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions

Opening Statement: [Chairman Andrews](#)

Organization Statements:

Parity Now Coalition,
Mental Health America
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

Packet on Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act>>

Background Information — Office of the Speaker

Summary of HR 1424>>

Fact Sheet — Committees on Education & Labor, Energy & Commerce, and Ways & Means

Fairness in Treatment>>

Fact Sheet — Committees on Education & Labor, Energy & Commerce, and Ways & Means

Opposition to S. 558 as Substitute>>

Fact Sheet — Committees on Education & Labor, Energy & Commerce, and Ways & Means

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

[Health Subcommittee Completes Markup Approved Legislation Promotes Mental Health Parity, Helps Raise Funds for Breast Cancer Research>>](#)

October 10, 2007 Press Release — Committee on Energy and Commerce

[Labor Committee Approves Legislation to Help People with Mental Illnesses Get Treatment >>](#)

July 18, 2007 Press Release — Committee on Education and Labor

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 1424](#)

H.R. 2857 – GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION (GIVE) ACT

(Rep. McCarthy (NY) – Education and Labor) (Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in H-313 the Capitol,
[Special Announcement](#), [Text of Bill as Reported](#), [H.Rpt. 110-420: Education & Labor Committee Report](#)

Committee: [Committee on Education and Labor](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-3725

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

Increases Number of AmeriCorps Volunteers to 100,000

- Sets a goal of 100,000 AmeriCorps volunteers by 2012, putting 25,000 additional volunteers into our communities.
- Promotes recruitment of disadvantaged youth, baby-boomers, and veterans into national and community service opportunities through the new Office of Outreach and Recruitment.

Engages Youth Through ‘Summer of Service’

- Fosters a sense of civic engagement for youth in grades 5-12, as well as introducing them to the benefits of volunteering in their community during the summer.
- Provides supervised and constructive service participation for young people in their communities to discourage ‘summer slide’ and promote leadership development.
- Includes a \$500 education award to be used for college preparatory work or college costs.

Keeps America Competitive

- Encourages national service programs to recruit scientists, technicians, mathematicians, and engineers to address our nation’s community needs through the STEM fields.
- Encourages innovative efforts to address unmet education and human needs and help close the digital divide in low-income communities.

Helps Achieve National Priorities for Disaster Preparedness

- Encourages collaborative efforts at the national, state, and local level to provide service in the areas of disaster preparedness, response, and relief.
- Strengthens the emergency response and disaster preparedness efforts of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) to increase the programs effectiveness during times of national need.

Brings AmeriCorps Alumni Back Into Service

- Establishes a "Reserve Corps" of AmeriCorps alumni ready for deployment in times of national need.

Enhances Program Accountability

- Reserves 1% of total funds appropriated in a fiscal year to support program accountability activities.
- Requires the Corporation to establish in consultation with grantees, outcome-based performance measures for achieving high performance.

Invests in the Future of Service

- Includes a total authorization level of \$1 billion for FY 2008 to support national service activities, including \$324 million for the AmeriCorps program. This represents a \$158 million (18.5 percent) increase above the 2008 Omnibus.

House Report 110-420:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee on Education and Labor Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup: H.R. 2857, "Generations Invigorating Volunteering and Education \(GIVE\) Act", H.R. 2847, "Green Jobs Act of 2007", H.R. 2831, "Ledbetter Fair Pay Act"](#), June 27, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

Opening Statement: [Chairman Miller](#)

Summary of Committee Votes:

- [Rep. Altmire, D-Pa. New Chapter Grants for Baby Boomers Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have used money from the New Chapter Grants to encourage baby boomers and senior citizens to engage in education and retraining for volunteer or paid work, make social connections and take part in public service opportunities. **Withdrawn.**
- [Rep. McKeon, R-Calif. Civic Engagement for Children Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have reserved up to 3 percent of funds, instead of 6 percent, for competitive grants to partnerships for the development of service-learning programs that promote greater civic engagement among elementary and secondary students. **Rejected 16-25: R 16-0; D 0-25; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. R. Scott, D-Va. En Bloc Amendments to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have: Authorized funds for programs aimed at reducing recidivism through life skills training, employment training and other training programs, with a specific focus on previously incarcerated individuals; Added programs to the National Service Trust Program funds that have the primary purpose of re-engaging court-involved youths and adults to reduce recidivism, focusing primarily on previously incarcerated individuals; Allowed funding for demonstration programs that recruit court-involved youths to participate in community service activities, with an emphasis on previously incarcerated individuals; Emphasized that individuals who have previously been incarcerated are not excluded from the program. **Withdrawn En Bloc.**

- [Rep. T. Price, R-Ga. Citizenship Principles Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Ensures program participants promoting citizenship and civic engagement adhere to principles consistent with citizenship programs administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. **Adopted Without Objection.**
- [Rep. Hare, D-Ill. Programs for Veterans and Civic Engagement Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Establishes a new veterans program and a civic engagement program. The programs promote a better understanding of: The importance of our nation's character; How the nation's government functions; The principles of the Constitution, the heroes of American history, including military heroes, and the meaning of the oath of allegiance. **Adopted 45-0: R 19-0; D 26-0; I 0-0 (Roll Call).**
- [Rep. David Davis, R-Tenn. Office of Outreach and Recruitment Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have struck language that establishes the National Office of Outreach and Recruitment. **Rejected 20-27: R 20-0; D 0-27; I 0-0.**
- [Rep. Kildee, D-Mich. State Plans for Baby Boomers Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Establishes a requirement that states must develop a plan for volunteer and paid service by members of the baby boom generation and older adults. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Souder, R-Ind. Funds for Rural Communities Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have allowed a reserve of up to 5 percent of allocated funds to test new approaches to increasing and diversifying opportunities in an effort to encourage programs that reach out to rural communities. **Withdrawn.**
- [Rep. Grijalva, D-Ariz. Bilingual Volunteers Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Identifies and implements recruitment strategies and training programs for bilingual volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. J. Sarbanes, D-Md. Increase Veterans' Programs Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Commissions the Corporation for National and Community Service to conduct a study to identify specific areas of need for veterans. The report would be submitted to Congress one year after enactment. It also allows the corporation to develop and carry out a pilot program based on the findings in the report. **Adopted 46-0: R 19-0; D 27-0; I 0-0 (Roll Call).**
- [Rep. Sestak, D-Pa. Silver Scholarship Program Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have established a Silver Scholarship Program to provide educational awards, of no more than \$1,000, to individuals age 55 and older who perform certain volunteer services. **Withdrawn.**
- [Rep. Sestak, D-Pa. Donations to Participating Organizations Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Permits organizations participating in the Senior Service Corps Program to accept donations, in cash or in-kind, except from the beneficiaries of the program. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Shea-Porter, D-N.H. Minimum Grants to States Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Increases the minimum grant amount made available to each state. The amount will increase from \$500,000 to \$600,000. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

- [Rep. R. Scott, D-Va. Competitive Re-evaluation Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Includes some form of priority consideration for existing grantees in good standing during a competitive re-evaluation. **Adopted 27-20: R 0-20; D 27-0; I 0-0 (Roll Call)**.
- [Rep. Yarmuth, D-Ky. Reciprocal Service Centers Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Augments the capacity of members of a community to serve each other through reciprocal service centers. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. R. Scott, D-Va. Recidivism Reduction Programs Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Permits funding for programs aimed at reducing recidivism through life skills training, employment training and other training programs. **Adopted Without Objection.**
- [Rep. R. Scott, D-Va. Re-engaging Court-Involved Individuals Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Adds programs to the National Service Trust Program funds that have the purpose of re-engaging court-involved youths and adults to reduce recidivism. **Adopted Without Objection.**
- [Rep. R. Scott, D-Va. Previously Incarcerated Individuals Amendment to the McCarthy Substitute Amendment](#) — Emphasizes that individuals who have previously been incarcerated would not be excluded from the VISTA program. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. C. McCarthy, D-N.Y. Substitute Amendment](#) — Reauthorizes \$843 million for national service programs, including AmeriCorps, for fiscal 2008 through 2012. The amendment increases the number of AmeriCorps volunteers from 75,000 to 100,000 while providing \$265 million for the program. It also provides funding for programs such as the National Service Trust, the National Civilian Community Corps, Senior Corps and Foster Grandparents. The amendment provides more resources to states while decreasing funding at the national level and funds the Summer of Service program aimed at students in grades 5-12. **Adopted, as Amended, by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the Full House, as Amended, by a **Recorded Vote of 44-0: R 17-0; D 27-0; I 0-0 (Roll Call)**.

CRS Reports:

[RL34096](#): Reauthorization in the 110th Congress of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

CBO Report:

[Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the Committee on Education and Labor

Committee Hearings:

["Strengthening Communities: An Overview of Service and Volunteering in America" »](#)

February 27, 2007 Hearing — Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities
Opening Statement: [Chairwoman McCarthy](#)

Witness Testimony:

- [Mr. Thomas Daigle](#), AmeriCorps Member, Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte
- [Mr. David Eisner](#), CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service
- [Mr. David Edelman](#), AmeriCorps NCCC Member (Class of 2005)
- [Mr. John Gomperts](#), CEO, Experience Corps
- [Mr. George H. Moore](#), Executive Director, Community Progress Council

"Renewing the Spirit of National and Community Service" »

April 19, 2007 Hearing — Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities
Opening Statement: [Chairwoman McCarthy](#)

Witness Testimony:

- [Mr. Robert Newman](#), Actor "The Guiding Light"
- [Ms. Susan E. Stroud](#), Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP)
- [Mr. Robert Purifico](#), President, Destination ImagiNation (DI)
- [Ms. Marcia Brown](#), Schools Program Manager, Hands on Atlanta
- [Mr. Paul R. Gudonis](#), President, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

Give Act Background and Summary>>

Fact Sheet — Committee on Education and Labor

Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:

[Education & Labor Committee Votes to Renew and Improve National Volunteer Community Service Programs>>](#)

June 27, 2007 Press Release — Committee on Education and Labor

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2857](#)